

XLVIII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 396.]

94. *Allen on Birds from Bolivia.*

[List of the Birds collected in Bolivia by Dr. H. H. Rusby, with Field-Notes by the Collector. By J. A. Allen. Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. ii. no. 2. Author's edition.]

Dr. Rusby, a botanist, during his journey from Arica, in Chile, into Bolivia in 1885-86, made a collection of 400 specimens of birds, representing 267 species. Amongst these are 125 new to the Bolivian list, and 11 apparently new to science. The new species and subspecies are termed:—*Empidonax bolivianus*, *Chiroxiphia parcola boliviana*, *Enicornis* (scr. *Henicornis*) *striata* (probably from Valparaiso), *Leptasthenura fuscescens*, *L. fuliginiceps boliviana*, *Synalaxis griseiventris*, *Anabazenops immaculatus*, *Myrmochanes hypoleucus* (new genus near *Pyriglena*), *Conopophaga rusbyi*, *Phlogopsis notata*, and *Scytalopus bolivianus*. *Picolaptes oblectus* is also described as new in a footnote; it is based on one of the two specimens of *Picolaptes lacrymiger* in the Lafresnaye collection. *Opisthocomus cristatus* and *Palamedea cornuta* were procured on the Lower Beni, and *Centropelma micropterum* (Scl. et Salv. Ex. Orn. pl. xcv.) on Lake Titicaca. A few field-notes are added, but contain little of special interest, if we except the account of the domestic habits of *Psophia leucoptera* (*op. cit.* p. 107).

95. *Allen on Birds from Quito.*

[Notes on a Collection of Birds from Quito, Ecuador. By J. A. Allen. Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. ii. no. 2. Author's edition, issued March 22nd, 1889.]

Mr. Allen gives an account of a collection of 210 specimens of birds made in the immediate vicinity of Quito by Mr. L. Söderström. These are referred to 79 species, of which one, believed to be new (*Tityra nigriceps*), has already been described in 'The Auk' (1888, p. 287). Mr. Allen elevates *Pithys albifrons peruvianus* of Taczanowski, of which

8 examples are in the collection, to specific rank as *Pithys peruvianus*.

96. *British Association's 'Report on the Migration of Birds.'*

[Report on the Migration of Birds in the Spring and Autumn of 1887. By J. A. Harvie-Brown, J. Cordeaux, R. M. Barrington, A. G. More, and W. Eagle Clarke. Ninth Report (Vol. ii. no. 4). 8vo. Edinburgh: 1889.]

This is the ninth and final Report of a Committee which has done excellent service, although it has received an infinitesimal amount of pecuniary assistance and very little encouragement from the public. The patient labours of the individual members have now ceased, but the impetus given to the system and habit of taking an intelligent interest in our migratory birds will long continue among the light-keepers and others, who have responded so actively to the appeals made by the various recorders. We are glad to see that Mr. W. Eagle Clarke is condensing the results of the investigations made during the past nine years. The Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*) and the Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*) have been added the Irish list. Special thanks are due to Messrs. R. M. Barrington and A. G. More for the clear manner in which they have presented their portion of the Report.

97. *Büttikofer on new Liberian Birds.*

[On two probably new Birds from Liberia. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xi. p. 97.]

The presumed new species are described as *Drymocapthus johnsoni* and *Laniarius zosterops*.

98. *Büttikofer on a new Owl.*

[On a new Owl from Liberia. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xi. p. 34.]

Bubo lettii is the name proposed by Mr. Büttikofer for a very peculiar new Owl, discovered in Liberia by Mr. Stampfli.

It shows no affinity to the known Owls of the Old World, but is rather to be compared with *B. cristatus* of South America, having exceedingly long ear-tufts and white alar spots.

99. *Büttikofer on Birds from Liberia.*

[Zoological Researches in Liberia. Fourth List of Birds. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xi. p. 113.]

Mr. F. X. Stampfli, who was left in Liberia by Mr. Büttikofer in 1887 to continue his zoological researches, has now returned finally to Holland, and has brought with him a collection of about 250 specimens of birds, representing 92 species, of which one (*Bubo lettii*) has already been described as new, and eleven are additions to the Liberian avifauna. A list, with critical notes, is given of the whole collection, and *Bubo lettii* is figured. The paper is concluded with a general summary of all the species met with by Mr. Büttikofer and his assistants in Liberia, 229 in number. About 17 others, mentioned as having occurred in Liberia by previous authors, have not been obtained by Mr. Büttikofer and his friends.

100. *Büttikofer on Birds from South-western Africa.*

[On a new Collection of Birds from South-western Africa. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xi. p. 65.]

Mr. van der Kellen, whose previous collection of birds from the interior of South-west Africa has already been noticed (above p. 245), has sent to the Leyden Museum another series from Humpata, on the Upper Cunene. It contains 267 specimens, which Mr. Büttikofer refers to 103 species. Of these 49 are additional to the former list, and two (*Lophoceros alboterminatus* and *Francolinus jugularis*) are new to science; the latter is figured. The species now known from the Upper Cunene are 180 in number.

101. *Carazzi on the Birds of the District of Spezia.*

[2^a Appendice ai materiali per una Avifauna del Golfo di Spezia e della Val di Magra. Per Davide Carazzi. 8vo. Spezia: 1889.]

Sign. Carazzi, of the Museo Civico of Spezia, adds in this second appendix to his former lists* four more species to the avifauna of this district, and shows that one species must be removed from the list—the supposed example of *Terekia cinerea* having turned out to be *Tringa canutus*. The total number of species of birds now recognized in this district is therefore 315.

102. Chamberlain's 'Notes on Non-Volant Birds.'

[Notes on Non-Volant Birds. Being a Paper read to the Members of the Largo Naturalists' Society, 2nd August, 1888. By Walter Chamberlain, F.Z.S. 8vo. Cupar, Fifeshire: 1888.]

Mr. Walter Chamberlain has put together, in his interesting Address to the Largo Naturalists' Society, some of the chief facts known concerning birds that cannot fly. We are not quite certain that the Kagu (*Rhinochetus jubatus*) can be strictly comprehended in the list. Mr. Chamberlain is, no doubt, correct in his conclusion that the Penguin-type has "at no period of its existence possessed the power of flight." As regards the vexed question as to the descent of the Struthiones, he inclines to Mr. Wallace's view, that the early progenitors of these birds had "at least some limited powers of flight."

103. Check-List of North-American Birds (Supplement).

[Supplement to the Code of Nomenclature and Check-List of North-American Birds, adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union, prepared by a Committee of the Union. 8vo. New York: 1889.]

The Supplement to the 'Check-List of North-American Birds' contains the names of the "tenable species and subspecies, genera and subgenera, added since the publication of the Check-List, together with the necessary eliminations and the valid changes in nomenclature made since the Check-List was issued." It is conveniently arranged under three heads,—“Additions,” “Eliminations,” and “Changes of Nomenclature.” The additional species and subspecies are 63 in number, besides which *Chen caerulescens* is “restored

* Cf. Ibis, 1888, pp. 134, 363.

from the hypothetical list." Three supposed species are eliminated.

104. *Check-List of North-American Birds.* (Abridged edition.)

[Check-List of North-American Birds, according to the Canons of Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union. Abridged edition, revised. 8vo. Washington: 1889.]

The abridged edition of the 'Check-List of North-American Birds' contains only the scientific and English names and the references to former editions of the American List. It embraces the species enumerated in the Supplement recently issued (see above) as well as those in the original Check-List of 1885. As in the Supplement, the new species are interpolated, and numbered in each case the same as the immediately preceding species with the addition of a decimal point and second number, in order to secure the permanence of the numbers in the original Check-List. A list of introduced species is added, but the list of fossil birds is omitted.

105. *Ernst on the Birds in the Museum of Caracas.*

[Catalogo de las Aves en el Museo Nacional de Caracas. Por A. Ernst, Director del Museo. Revista Cient. Univers. Central Venezuela, i. p. 25.]

Our valued correspondent, Dr. Ernst, has lately sent to the library of the Zoological Society of London a complete set of the numbers of vol. i. of the 'Revista Cientifica' of the Central University of Venezuela, which we had not previously seen. It contains the paper of which we now give the title, apparently issued in 1887.

The list enumerates 339 species, including many extraneous birds. As the author observes, the series of Venezuelan species is by no means complete, and it is a great misfortune that no one has, as yet, attempted even a complete catalogue of the birds of this most interesting country, of which the avifauna must embrace, we should say, at least 600 or 700 species.

106. *Harvie-Brown and Buckley, 'Vertebrate Fauna of the Outer Hebrides.'*

[A Vertebrate Fauna of the Outer Hebrides. By J. A. Harvie-Brown and T. E. Buckley. 8vo. Edinburgh: 1888.]

This handsome volume shows a great improvement in style upon the work on Sutherland and Caithness, which we noticed last year (*Ibis*, 1888, p. 272). Moreover the material is far more interesting, inasmuch as comparatively few ornithologists have been able to visit the numerous outlying islets to which Mr. Harvie-Brown and his companions have devoted so much attention; and, again, an acquaintance with these remote spots is a work of difficulty and often of danger. We are now furnished, for the first time, with a really trustworthy account of the ornithology of the Outer Hebrides; for, much as we are indebted to the late Robert Gray for his 'Birds of the West of Scotland,' it must be remembered that his personal experience was confined to two or three short visits made in his business capacity as bank inspector and during a fortnight's detention on North Uist. Mr. J. G. Millais has contributed one of his striking title-pages (this time of mammals), while maps and reproductions of photographs embellish a volume which can be heartily recommended.

107. *Leverkühn on the Birds mentioned in the Koran.*

[Welche Vögel nennt der Koran? Von Paul Leverkühn. Zeitschr. für die ges. Ornith. Budapest, iv. p. 413.]

Herr Leverkühn writes of the few passages in the Koran that relate to birds, of which only five or six common species appear to have attracted Mahomet's attention. There are, however, some queer stories in relation to some of these birds introduced into the paper.

108. *Leverkühn on new South-American Birds.*

[Südamerikanische Nova aus dem Kieler Museum. Von Paul Leverkühn. Journ. f. Ornith. 1889, p. 101.]

The Museum of the Zoological Institute of the University

of Kiel has contained for the past forty years the large series of birds collected by the late Dr. Behn during his voyage round the world in the Danish Frigate 'Galathea' (1845-47) and his subsequent land-journey across South America. These collections, containing about 10,000 skins, have scarcely been touched since their acquisition*, and to a great extent lie still packed in their original cases. Herr Leverkühn has now commenced the task of working them out, in which he has received assistance from various specialists. Mr. Seeböhm has already described a new Thrush obtained by Behn in Brazil (*Merula subalaris*, P. Z. S. 1887, p. 557). Herr Leverkühn now describes *Aphobus megistus* from Bolivia, *Homorus galatheeæ* from Matto Grosso, *Terenura elaopteryx* (based on a dealer's specimen, probably from Cayenne), and *Polioptila boliviana*, Scl. (species restituta).

109. Marshall on the Parrots.

[Die Papageien (Psittaci). Von William Marshall. Zoologische Vortr. Heft 1. Leipzig: 1889.]

This is a general essay on the structure, systematic arrangement, and distribution of the great and well-marked order Psittaci, of which some 450 species are now known to naturalists. It contains much information on the subject in a small space. Prof. Marshall divides the Psittaci into ten subfamilies, uniting under the "Pionidæ" some American and some African genera. In this we should hardly be disposed to agree with him, as we believe that all the American Parrots will be found to belong essentially to one group. We may also remark that the table of distribution of the West-Indian Parrots is not quite correct. *Chrysotis versicolor* is not found in Cuba, but in St. Lucia†, and *Chrysotis bouqueti* of Dominica is altogether omitted.

* In 1853 the Editor of this Journal had the good fortune of being allowed to examine this Collection, and obtained from it in exchange a few duplicates, amongst which was a specimen of *Monacha nigrifrons*. See Mon. Jac. & Puffbirds, p. 160.

† Cf. Selater, P. Z. S. 1881, p. 627.

110. *Marshall on the Woodpeckers.*

[Die Spechte (Pici). Von William Marshall. Zoologische Vortr. Heft 2. Leipzig: 1889.]

Prof. Marshall has devoted his second ornithological essay to the Woodpeckers (Pici), also a very strongly marked group, and one of which there can be no doubt as to the limits. After a general account of the structure and habits of these birds, a scheme of their classification and distribution is appended. The author divides the Pici into four families—Jyngidæ, Picumnidæ, Hemicercidæ, and Picidæ—and gives a list of the species and their *patriæ*.

111. *Mojsisovics on the Zoo-geography of Southern Hungary.*

[Zoogeographische Notizen über Süd-Ungarn aus den Jahren 1886-88. Zugleich ein iii. Nachtrag zur "Fauna von Bélye und Dárda." Von Prof. Md. univ. Dr. A. v. Mojsisovics. Mittheil. Naturwissenschaftl. Ver. für Steiermark, Graz, 1888.]

To Professor Mojsisovics's summary of his researches into the peculiarities of the fauna of Southern Hungary—a subject on which he has published fifteen contributions since 1881—is here added a list of the birds of the Drave district observed during this period. The list contains the names of 243 species.

112. *Pleske's 'Ornithographia Rossica.'*

[Ornithographia Rossica. Die Vogelfauna des Russischen Reichs von Th. Pleske. Lief. 1. Grasmücken (*Sylvia*). 4to. St. Pétersbourg: 1889.]

A complete account of the birds of the Russian Empire, if under present circumstances such a work can be satisfactorily accomplished, will be very important for ornithology, and we welcome its commencement under the auspices of the Imperial Academy of Sciences with great pleasure. M. Pleske, who has succeeded M. Bogdanow in the charge of the birds of the Imperial Collection, has undertaken the task, and his scheme, as given in the introduction, seems to be very good, but we should have thought that it would require

more than two volumes to complete it. It would be naturally expected that such a publication should be in the national language, but it is with great pleasure that we see it accompanied by a German translation. The first livraison contains an account of the 13 Russian *Sylvie*, with plates containing figures of the following species :—*Sylvia althea* (2 figs.), *S. curruca* (2 figs.), *S. minuscula* (3 figs.).

113. *Radde and Walter on the Birds of Transcaspia.*

[Die Vögel Transcaspiens. Von Dr. G. Radde und Dr. A. Walter. Ornith., 1889, Parts i. & ii.]

The first two numbers of this year's 'Ornis' are mainly occupied with a memoir on the results, as regards birds, of the Transcaspian Expedition of Dr. Radde, Dr. Walter, and Herr Konschin, which merits the careful attention of those interested in Palæarctic ornithology. About 800 birdskins were obtained, which are referred in the first part of the memoir to 297 species. These, as might have been expected, are mostly well-known Palæarctic forms, though a few intruders from Northern India are noted in the list. Almost the only novelty is *Lanius raddei*, already described and figured in this Journal (*suprà*, p. 89, pl. v.) by Mr. Dresser from Dr. Radde's specimens. In the second part of the memoir some very interesting notes are given upon the rarer and more characteristic species, and a special account of the breeding-birds of Transcaspia and their distribution. A well-executed map shows the various routes of the expedition.

114. *Saunders's 'Manual of British Birds.'*

[An Illustrated Manual of British Birds. By Howard Saunders. Parts VIII.-XV. 8vo. London: 1888-89.]

Our valued ex-coadjutor makes regular and satisfactory progress with his 'Illustrated Manual of British Birds,' which, we understand, is attaining a very good circulation, and will, we are sure, attract many recruits to the army of British ornithologists. Four or five more parts, which will all be issued before the close of the year, will complete the work,

which will then form by far the most handy and convenient manual on the subject yet published.

115. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of Circus hudsonius.*

[Osteology of *Circus hudsonius*. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S. Reprinted from the Journ. Comp. Medicine & Surg. April 1889.]

Dr. Shufeldt's object in the present memoir is "simply to present a detailed account of the osteology of a good representative American Hawk." This, we need hardly say, he has well accomplished, though we are not quite sure that *Circus* ought to have been selected as a typical Falconine bird. As is always the case in Dr. Shufeldt's memoirs, the figures are clearly drawn and distinctly cut.

116. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Anseres.*

[Observations upon the Osteology of the North-American Anseres. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xi. p. 215.]

Dr. Shufeldt gives us here a good account of the osteology of some of the North-American Anatidæ, such species as *Mergus serrator*, *Somateria dresseri*, *Spatula clypeata*, *Glauconetta islandica*, and *Bernicla hutchinsi* being selected for illustration. It would be very good of the author to examine a larger series of forms of this family, and to show us how it may be divided most naturally into subfamilies. This is one of the groups in which osteological structure could not fail to be of primary importance in the indication of affinities.

117. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Water-Birds.*

[Contributions to the Comparative Osteology of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Water-Birds. Part III. By R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., C.M.Z.S. Journ. Anat. & Physiol. xxiii. p. 400.]

We have already noticed the first two parts of this series of memoirs (*suprà*, pp. 252, 393). The third, now before us, contains a further account of the Alcidiæ, and deals with the skeletons of *Synthiborhamphus*, *Brachyrhamphus*, and *Cepphus*. When the Alcidiæ are finished we hope that the author will be able to state the results arrived at in a more definite form.

118. *Sousa on Birds from Angola.*

[Aves da Huilla (Angola) remetidas ao Museu de Lisboa pelo Reverendo Padre Antunes. Por José Augusto de Sousa. *Jorn. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat.* Lisboa, 2^a ser. no. 1, p. 37, 1889.]

A list is given of 25 species of birds represented in a collection remitted by Padre Antunes from Huilla, in Angola. One species is described as new (*Serinus huillensis*), and *Ciconia nigra* is mentioned as occurring in Angola for the first time.

119. *Sousa on Birds collected by Sr. Anchieta.*

[Aves de Angola da Exploração do Sr. José d'Anchieta. Por José Augusto de Sousa. *Jorn. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat.* Lisboa, 2^a ser. no. 1, p. 41, 1889.]

Sr. Sousa gives an account of a second* collection obtained by the well-known collector Sr. Anchieta in Quindumbo, in S.E. Africa, in the autumn of 1887, together with some notes of the collector. The specimens are referred to 46 species, whereof one, *Lagonosticta cinereo-vinacea*, is described as new. Others are noted as rare or imperfectly known.

120. *Strauch on the Zoological Museum of St. Petersburg.*

[Das Zoologische Museum der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu St. Petersburg in seinem fünfzig jährigen Bestehen. Von Dr. Alexander Strauch. St. Petersburg: 1889.]

In this instructive memoir we find a complete history of the past and present state of the celebrated Museum of St. Petersburg, its buildings, endowments, staff, and collections, prepared by Dr. Strauch, the present Director. The Museum was founded by John Frederick Brandt (its first Director) in 1832, upon whose death, in 1879, the present Director succeeded him.

The ornithological collection, although rich in possessing the types of Ménétriés, Brandt, Nordmann, Middendorf, v. Shrenck, Radde, Eversmann, Przewalsky, and many other well-known Russian travellers and collectors, is not large,

* See *Jorn. Sc. Lisboa*, xii. p. 216, for an account of the first collection.

numerically, compared with other great European museums, containing only about 24,000 examples, referable to 3538 species, and is poor in exotic forms.

121. *Wallace on Darwinism.*

[Darwinism: an Exposition of the Theory of Natural Selection, with some of its Applications. By Alfred Russel Wallace. London: 1889. 1 vol. 8vo. 494 pp.]

It is quite time that a new and popular exposition of the theory of Natural Selection, "from the standpoint reached after thirty years of discussion," should be drawn up, and no one could have been suggested to perform this task so well as our excellent fellow-worker Mr. Wallace, himself the co-discoverer with Darwin of that immortal theory. We have read through this well-arranged and well-written treatise with great pleasure, and are sure that, although it is not specially connected with ornithology, most other members of the B. O. U. have done, or will do, the same. In our opinion the author has well succeeded in his endeavour "to enable any intelligent reader to obtain a clear conception of Darwin's work, and to understand something of the power and range of his great principle."

We may venture, however, to call Mr. Wallace's attention to two small (ornithological) points, which require a few words of correction in the next edition. The species of the genus *Cinclus* (see p. 116) should not be said to frequent "*exclusively*" the mountain-streams of the northern hemisphere. Three well-marked members of this group are found only in the highlands of South America, namely, *C. leuconotus* in Colombia, *C. leucocephalus* in Peru, and *C. schulzi* in the Argentine Republic.

It is also quite true that (as stated, p. 154) the great mass of Parrots never breed in captivity. But it is very singular and worthy of notice that some of the small Australian species (*Melopsittacus undulatus*, *Euphema pulchella*) are, on the other hand, ready and constant breeders in our aviaries—" *Natura non habet regulam.*"

Mr. Wallace has devoted some space to the criticism of

Darwin's theory of sexual selection, so far as it includes the action of female choice or preference on the development of decorations in the male. We fully acknowledge the force of his arguments, but are hardly disposed to coincide with the alternative explanation of "greater vigour and excitability" as sufficient to account for the many extraordinary developments of the male plumage in birds and other animals. We also rather take exception to the expression "accessory plumes," often used in this connection. These so-called "accessory plumes" will always be found on close examination to be nothing more than *ordinary* plumes *extraordinarily* developed, not new creations, as one would be led to suppose by that ill-chosen expression.

122. *Watson's 'Sylvan Folk.'*

[*Sylvan Folk: Sketches of Bird and Animal Life in Britain.* By John Watson. 12mo. London: 1889.]

This is a collection of newspaper and magazine articles, one of which has appeared in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' as recently as August last, though the work was published last spring. The author places the Swifts among the Swallows, which he calls "Hirundines"; speaks of the Little Bustard as now *extinct* in Great Britain; indulges in the hope that the Great Auk still exists within the Arctic circle; and is ostentatious in his contempt for "the dry bones of science." The style of the book is *after* that which is identified with the name of the late Richard Jefferies, and the author's disregard for syntax is as obvious as his "scant sympathy for that species of natural history which is acquired in closets."

XLIX.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to the Editor of 'The Ibis':—

69 Cornwall Road,
South Kensington, S.W.

SIR,—It may be interesting to subscribers in this country,